

D. Riparian Buffers: Our landscape and flood compensation measures have been informed by the updated Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance titled 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment', revised in 2020. Accordingly, we have ensured a 15.00m width riparian buffer zone to the banks of the Urrin, and provided chestnut pale type fencing with regular gates for angler/maintenance access to the river. Streamside and Middle Zones have been provided in the design.

E. Hibernacula: The riverside amenity park and quieter verges of the site will be suitable locations for newt/reptilian hibernacula

## **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - NUMBERED KEY**

Existing vegetation (treeline, hedgerow) and field drains, to be protected and retained as part of the works. Please refer to consulting arborist's surveys, report and tree protection measures. New infill transplant planting of native hedgerow species where gaps have occurred.

2. Flood Compensatory Measures zone: slight depression and slopes to be seeded with native species conservation rough grass/wildflower seed mix appropriate for wetland areas. Drifts of native species bulbs suitable for occasional wetland to be planted in this area

New transplant planting of native and naturalised hedgerow species to create a wildlife rich and 3. fruit foraging hedgerow along Carley's Bridge Road site boundary

- Areas of native species transplant planting (suitable for log piles and compost heaps) 4.
- Conservation mix grass/wildflower meadow seeding to new graded slopes; slopes to be planted 5 with new amenity landscape trees

6. Approximate locations of wildlife tunnels under new roads as designed by consulting engineers

## **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - RATIONALE**

Jan Gehl, architect and urban planner, states: 'First life, then spaces, then buildings - the other way around never works'. In our biodiversity action plan, developed with the assistance of our team's

consulting arborist, ecologist and flood compensation engineer, we have incorporated a number of measures and concepts to try and improve biodiversity potential at the site. Currently laid out in improved agricultural pastureland, the roughly rectangular subject site is bounded on its perimeter with treelines, hedgerows and field drains. Where is it possible, these have been retained and protected, and incorporated in the design, as they provide important visual screening, let alone acting as valuable blue-green wildlife corridors. The site is bounded to the south-west by the Urrin River.

Arup's guidance document for residential housing '10 Priorities for Health and Well-being' identifies a number of actions that can support biodiversity and health and wellbeing issues within residential developments.

- Focus on air quality 1.
- Design for user comfort 2
- Understand the impact of materials
- Maximise the use of data
- Design for healthy streets and active travel 5.
- 6. Incorporate blue and green infrastructure (nature based solutions)
- Take evidence-based planning decisions
- Create neighbourhoods for all ages and abilities
- Optimise operations, behaviour and the built environment 9.

Improve evaluation of health and well-being outcomes 10.

Ireland's national 'All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025' proposes a menu of measures that can be undertaken to aid biodiversity and support pollinators, including:

- making farmland pollinator friendly
- making public land pollinator friendly
- making private land pollinator friendly
- an All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy, and
  - conservation of rare pollinators

We are committed to a non-herbicidal management regime at the site.

